

## REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 4, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response extended to expire on March 4, 2005. Claims 1-52 are pending in the application. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

### Election/Restriction

Claims 1-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. The claims have been restricted under 35 U.S.C. § 121 as follows:

Invention I. Claims 1-6, and 10-28, drawn to method of drilling a subsea wellbore, classified in class 175, subclass 217+.

Invention II. Claims 7-9, drawn to method of reducing equivalent circulating density, classified in class 175, subclass 26+.

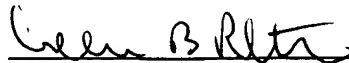
Invention III. Claims 29-52, drawn to method of drilling fluid gas separation, classified in class 166, subclass 105.5.

Applicants provisionally elect Invention III, Claims 29-52, without traverse.

### Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal or modification of the restriction requirement.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson, Reg. No. 34,102  
MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.  
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500  
Houston, TX 77056  
Telephone: (713) 623-4844  
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846  
Attorney for Applicants